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Letter dated 25 May 2012 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the attached letter dated 10 May 2012, which I have received from His Excellency Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, conveying the responses of the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan to the 24 April 2012 communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 10 May 2012 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission addressed to the Secretary-General

As you know, the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) of 24 April 2012 elaborated a "Roadmap" addressing the outstanding post-secession issues between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan and other related issues, with clear timeframes to which the Parties are expected to adhere. Through resolution 2046 (2012), adopted on 2 May 2012, the United Nations Security Council endorsed the PSC communiqué.

The immediate priority of the Roadmap is addressing the hostilities along the border between the two countries. The steps include an immediate cessation of hostilities, withdrawal of forces from the territory of the other country, the setting up of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM), the operationalization of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone (SDBZ), the convening of the Ad Hoc Committee to consider allegations and counter-allegations by the Parties, and the holding of a meeting of the Joint Political Security Mechanism (JPSM), to pave the way for the resumption of wider negotiations for the resolution of all issues within the stipulated timeframe.

Immediately after the PSC meeting, I wrote to the Presidents of the Republics of Sudan and South Sudan, formally submitting to them the communiqué and seeking their cooperation in its implementation. I pledged the full support of the AU in efforts to end the fighting and normalize relations between the two countries. In addition to the letter I sent you to seek your support and that of the Security Council, I addressed similar communications to other AU partners. In the meantime, the High-level Implementation Plan (AUHIP) began preparing a plan of action for the implementation of all aspects of the communiqué. I am pleased to note that, in this exercise, the AUHIP has been supported by your Special Envoy, Mr. Haile Menkerios, and by the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA) Force Commander, General Tesfay Tadesse.

The Government of South Sudan responded to my letter, confirming its acceptance of the communiqué and the Roadmap. In response, I issued a press statement welcoming its acceptance and looking forward to its full cooperation. The Government of Sudan thereafter sent a letter in which it announced its acceptance in principle of the communiqué, while stating that some elements, nonetheless, required further consultations. I also issued a press statement noting that the communication of Sudan was a positive step in the right direction. I am hereby attaching all the relevant correspondence for your information. I am also pleased to note that, on 10 May 2012, the UNISFA Force Commander confirmed the withdrawal from Abyei of South Sudan Police Service, as called for in the Roadmap.

As indicated in the PSC communiqué and the Security Council resolution, the AUHIP has a pivotal role to play in the implementation of the Roadmap and the resumption of negotiations on all aspects of the relationship between Sudan and South Sudan. To this end, the Chairperson of the AUHIP, former President Thabo Mbeki, has held extensive consultations with the parties and with the UNISFA Force Commander, to put in place all the necessary steps to ensure that the JPSM, when convened, will be successful and will result in substantive outcomes.

In particular, President Mbeki has been seeking the acceptance by both sides of the map that would define the boundary between the two states for the purposes of the deployment of the JBVMM and the establishment of the SDBZ. Acceptance of the map is key to a cessation of hostilities, and is a necessary condition for the normalization of relations and the creation of conditions conducive to negotiations on all outstanding issues. Given that the location of the boundary is at the heart of current tensions and fighting between the two states, this is proving to be a difficult task, but I am pleased to note that progress is being made. The outcome of the preparatory process, and the actions of the Parties on the ground, will be reported by the AUHIP in the coming days, and I would like at this point to turn to the issue of reporting.

There is a unique opportunity created by the international consensus on Sudan and South Sudan at this point in support of the communiqué of the 319th meeting of the PSC, which was reflected in Security Council resolution 2046 (2012). Reporting on progress to both the PSC and the Security Council provides a unique opportunity to sustain and consolidate this consensus and facilitate assessment of compliance by both countries. In this respect, the AUHIP will play a key role. The Panel intends, in drafting its report, to consult closely with the relevant United Nations officials and with other stakeholders, as appropriate. The reports of the Panel will be transmitted to both the AU PSC and the United Nations Security Council.

I would appreciate it if you could circulate this letter to the Security Council members, prior to their scheduled review of the implementation of resolution 2046 (2012), which is due in the coming days.

I would like to take this opportunity to, once again, express my gratitude for the support that has been provided by you and the Security Council to the AU's efforts. The adoption of resolution 2046 (2012) was a further testimony to the close partnership between the AU and the United Nations and the ways in which the two organizations can optimize their respective comparative advantages. In this respect, let me assure you once again of the AU's determination to ensure the full implementation of all aspects of the Roadmap.

(*Signed*) Jean **Ping**